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HER ANSWER.

SWEET love, give me your answer,
Only a whisper, dear :
Though spoken ne'er so softly,
'Twill reach my famished ear !

The south wind stays to listen ;
The lily's heart is stirred ;
Among the jasmine-blossoms
Flutters a sleepy bird.

She trembles, falters, blushes,
And shrinks with love-sweet fear ;
The very stars of heaven
Seem stooping down to hear.

But star nor bird nor blossom
May catch that precious word :—
Deep in her heart 'tis uttered,
And deep in mine 'tis heard !

MILDRED A. W. DORSEY.